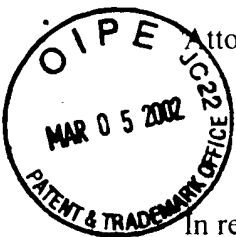


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PATENT



Attorney's Docket No. 34848.194868

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Bentley et al.

Appl. No.: 09/678,997

Filed: October 4, 2000

For: POLYMER STABILIZED NEUROPEPTIDES

Group Art Unit: 1656

Examiner: T. Strzelecks

February 6, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 6, 2001, please enter the following amendments:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 16 and cancel Claims 17 through 29 as non-elected and add the following new Claims 30 through 50.

30. (New) A substantially hydrophilic conjugate comprising an analgesic peptide covalently linked to a water soluble, nonpeptidic polymer and wherein said conjugate can transport across the blood-brain barrier of a mammal and said analgesic peptide is selected from the group consisting of biphalin and [D-Pen2, D-Pen5] enkephalin (DPDPE).

31. (New) The conjugate of Claim 30 having the property of extended analgesic effect in mammals as compared to the native peptide.

32. (New) The conjugate of Claim 30 wherein said water-soluble, nonpeptidic polymer is further characterized by the absence of lipophilic moieties.

33. (New) The conjugate of Claim 30 further characterized in that said nonpeptidic polymer and said peptide are conjugated from solution.